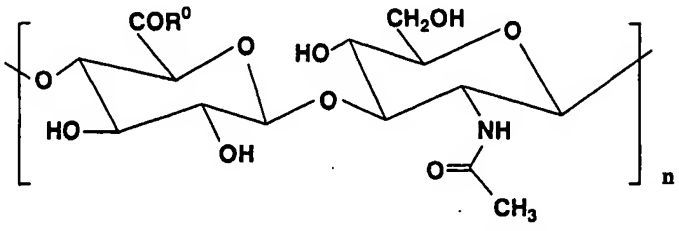
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

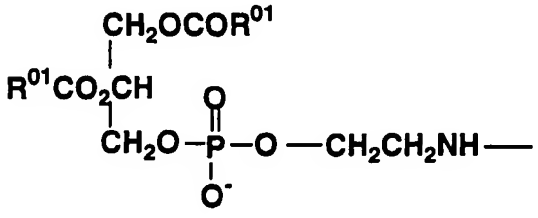
LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) A hyaluronic acid compound represented by the following formula (1)':



• • • (1)'

wherein R^0 is a group represented by the following formula (1)'-a, -OH or -ONa,



• • • (1) ' — a

wherein R^{01} is an alkenyl group having 10 to 28 carbon atoms, and n is an integer of 50 to 50,000, with the proviso that 1 to 100 % of R^0 is the group represented by the above formula (1)'-a.

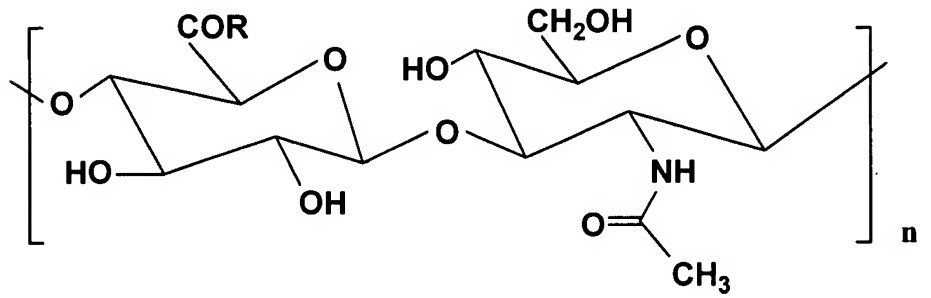
2. (original): The hyaluronic acid compound according to claim 1, wherein n is 300 to 30,000.

3. (previously presented): The hyaluronic acid compound according to claim 1, wherein two $R^{01}CO$-'s in the formula (1)'-a are both oleoyl groups.

4. (original): A hydrogel of the hyaluronic acid compound of any one of claims 1 to 3.

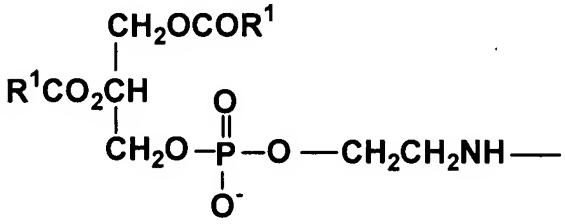
5. (original): A molded form of the hyaluronic acid compound of any one of claims 1 to 3.

6. (previously presented): A joint treating material comprising a hyaluronic acid compound represented by the following formula (1):



• • • (1)

wherein R is a group represented by the following formula (1)-a, -OH or -ONa,



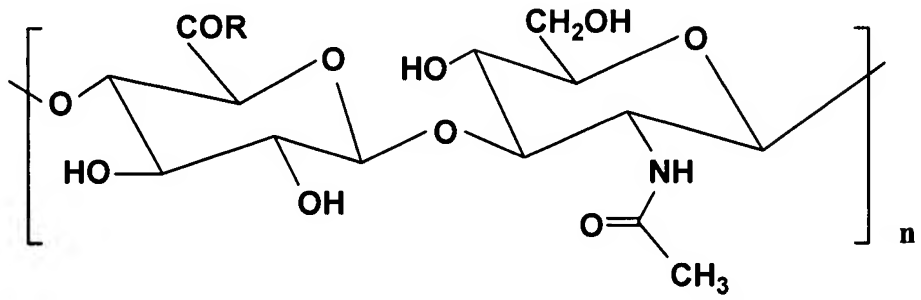
• • • (1) – a

wherein R^1 is an alkyl group or alkenyl group having 10 to 28 carbon atoms,

and n is an integer of 50 to 50,000, with the proviso that 1 to 100 % of R is the group represented by the above formula (1)-a.

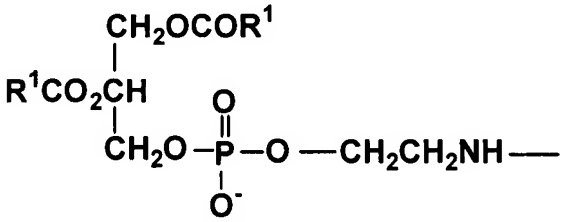
7. (original): The joint treating material according to claim 6 which has cartilage restoring ability.

8. (currently amended): ~~Use of the~~ A method of using a hyaluronic acid compound ~~represented by the above formula (1) as~~ comprising preparing a joint treating material from a hyaluronic acid compound represented by the following formula (1):



• • • (1)

wherein R is a group represented by the following formula (1)-a, -OH or -ONa,



• • • (1) – a

wherein R^1 is an alkyl group or alkenyl group having 10 to 28 carbon atoms,

and n is an integer of 50 to 50,000, with the proviso that 1 to 100 % of R is the group represented by the above formula (1)-a.